

Urge House to Follow Suit

WASHINGTON - U.S. Reps. Harry Mitchell (D-AZ) and Ron Paul (R-TX) today praised the Senate on voting to block a pay raise for members of Congress for Fiscal Year FY 2011. Mitchell and Paul have led the charge in the House to stop Congressional pay increases -- last year proposing legislation in the House that ultimately blocked this year's FY 2010 pay raise, and proposing a new bill this year to [block a pay raise for Members of Congress](#) in FY 2011. Today's passage of S.3244 prompted Mitchell and Paul to jointly urge their fellow House members to quickly follow suit.

S.3244 passed the Senate today by voice vote. The Mitchell-Paul legislation, H.R. 4255, would also block a pay raise for members of Congress and now has 130 bipartisan cosponsors - nearly one-third of the House. The National Taxpayers Union and Citizens Against Government Waste have also endorsed H.R. 4255.

"In these tough economic times, with unemployment so high and so many families struggling to make ends meet, I believe it would be unconscionable for Congress to give itself a raise," said Mitchell. "The Senate today said no to a raise. I believe it is past time for the House to do the same."

Congressman Paul added, "Thanks to the profligate spending of Congress and the policies of the Federal Reserve, most American workers will not get a cost of living pay increase this year. Forgoing its cost of living increase in pay is the least Congress can do."

In February, Mitchell and Paul [wrote an op-ed](#), urging their colleagues to block the next scheduled pay raise. "With unemployment still hovering around 10 percent, foreclosures up 21 percent, and so many families struggling to make ends meet, we believe this is the wrong time for members of Congress to raise their own pay. Unfortunately, unless Congress takes action to stop it that is precisely what will happen," they wrote.

Last year, Mitchell and Paul were successful in blocking the FY 2010 pay raise after introducing

similar legislation, H.R. 156, which garnered 118 cosponsors. Members of Congress did not receive an anticipated \$4,700 raise in 2009, which has saved taxpayers approximately \$2.5 million. [Source: [The Hill](#), February 24, 2009]

In 1989, Congress approved a process that provides lawmakers with an automatic pay raise unless they vote specifically to reject the raise.